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LEOMINSTER & WIGMORE RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the year 1955.

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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December, 1955)

C. Barker	Lingen & Willey.
G.H. Bayliss	Richards Castle.
F. Baxter	Brimfield.
R.J. Bemand	Humber.
Mrs. E.F. Burns	Aston (or Pipe Aston) Elton & Leinthall Starkes.
Miss N.E.M. Chambers	Hatfield & New Hampton.
A.F. Downes	Bodenham.
E.M. Duggan	Kimbolton.
D.F.E. Griffiths (Vice-Chairman of the Council)	Wigmore.
E.N. Griffiths	Lingen & Willey.
P.K. Griffiths	Stoke Prior and Ford Bridge.
A.W. Henderson (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	Leintwardine
Lt.Col. H. Ingleby	Pudleston.
J.L. James	Luston.
A.C. Jones	Aymestrey.
S.T. Jones	Aymestrey.
G.H. Langford	Kingsland.
A.H. Lloyd	Yarpole.
A.E. Mason	Wigmore.
J.H. Morgan	Eyton.
P.H. Morris	Brampton Bryan and Buckton & Coxall.
T.G. Nicholls	Middleton-on-the-Hill.

Mrs. E.E. Powell	Monkland.
T.J. Price	Little Hereford and Upton.
S.T. Priday	Adforton, Stanway, Paytoe & Grange, Walford, Letton & Newton.
D.A. Prosser	Eye, Moreton & Ashton.
W.J. Rees	Lucton and Croft.
H.E. Shuker (Chairman of the Council) ...	Bodenham.
Mrs. D.M. Smith	Little Hereford and Upton.
H. Taylor (Chairman of the Water Supply Committee)	Docklow and Hampton Wafre.
G.P. Thomas	Hope-under-Dinmore and Newton.
J.B. Thomas	Burrington & Downton.
W. Haydn Thomas	Leintwardine.
R.W. Turley	Brampton Bryan and Buckton & Coxall.
Mrs. E.N. Wheeler	Kingsland.
W.N. Whitehead	Adforton, Stanway, Paytoe & Grange, Walford, Letton & Newton.
R.R. Worthing (Chairman of the Finance Committee)	Orleton.
E.B. Yapp	Leysters.
Vacant	Brimfield.
Vacant	Shobdon.

Clerk to the Council .. H.C. Smith.

Medical Officer of Health. I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.,

Sanitary Inspector. G.E. BULL, M.S.I.S., C.R.San.I.,

Pest Officer. GEOFFREY E. BULL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Leominster & Wigmore Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Sanitary Inspector and I have pleasure in presenting our joint report for the year 1955.

Though there were no outbreaks of infectious disease of a major or serious character during the twelve months, a minor epidemic of Measles occurred and 185 cases were notified. It will be recalled that the district was free from this disease during 1954, and that in 1953 we had the most extensive outbreak for quite a long period. As 325 cases were notified during that year, the number of susceptible children in the community even now, two years later, must be exceptionally low.

The Tuberculosis Register contains the names of eighty five persons who are known to be suffering from this disease, either in the lungs (62 cases) or in other parts of the body (23 cases). Five new cases were notified during the year; but the deletion of persons dying, recovering, or leaving the district, has caused the total on the register to remain almost the same as last year. It is to be expected that in the course of coming years there will be a progressive fall in the occurrence of Tuberculosis in the community, when the cumulative effect of better housing, of B.C.G. Vaccination of children against Tuberculosis, and of the detection of unsuspected chronic cases, or early cases by periodical visits of the Miniature Radiography Unit, reduces the number of new cases reported annually.

Members will observe that the birth rate for 1955 was, at 12.8 per thousand, a little below the 14.9 per thousand recorded for 1954. Though slight fluctuations up and down are in the nature of things and should not be regarded seriously, we should take note of trends. In that connection I must indicate that the trend since 1948 has been downward. The rate in 1948 was 20.3. Not since 1937, a year when industrial and agricultural activity was at about its lowest level, has the rate fallen below 13 per thousand. In view of this we shall watch with keen interest developments during forthcoming years.

Under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, the Council were required to prepare, by August 30th, 1955, a programme for the replacement of property in the district that is unfit for human habitation. Accordingly the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was informed that the total number of permanent dwellings in the district was 3,197, and that, of this number, there were 350 houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the 1954 Act. In the Council's opinion a period of about 25 years would be necessary to secure the demolition of all these houses, and, to that end, the Council undertook to deal with 25 houses each year under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

The year 1955 was notable in that construction work was in progress on the water supply schemes for Leintwardine, Wigmore, Luston - Eyton, Shobdon - Aymestrey - Yatton, and Lingen. The completion of these schemes will mean that a good portion of the most populous parts of the west and north of the district will have been provided with a pure and abundant piped water supply. In view of the urgent needs of people residing to the east and the south, as well as those in Monkland and Orleton, the attention of the Council will now turn towards the provision of similar facilities for them.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I would like to acknowledge our appreciation of the keen interest taken by the Chairman and Members of the Housing Committee in our day to day activities. We find this to be not only an encouragement to us, but an incentive as well.

I.F. MACKENZIE

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office: 4, Church Street, Leominster.
Telephone No: Leominster 2595

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

CLINICS

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes, the following clinic facilities are available to residents in the district:-

SCHOOL HEALTH AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Minor Ailments Clinic	...	Monday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
Orthopaedic Clinic	...	Tuesdays (By appointment)
Speech Therapy Clinic	...	Wednesdays (By appointment)
Child Psychology	...	Thursdays (By appointment)
Vaccination	...	1st Friday of each month, 11 a.m.
Infant Welfare Clinic	...	Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m.

All the foregoing clinics and the Orthopaedic After Care Clinic, which is organised on a voluntary basis, are held in the annexe at the Leominster Cottage Hospital.

Children are referred to the Ear Nose and Throat, Eye, Paediatric and Tuberculosis Clinics in Hereford as and when required.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	94,101
Population	10,200
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to the Rate Books ...	3,258
Rateable Value	£49,971
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£198

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate) ...	124	68	56
(Illegitimate) ...	7	3	4
Total ...	131	71	60
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate) ...	1	1	-
DEATHS	110	49	61
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE	3	2	1

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1955

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	12.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.0
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	7.6
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	23.1
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	10.8
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	22.9
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales ...	24.9

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS

WATER SUPPLIES

Leintwardine

Samples of water from the well supplying Leintwardine have been taken at frequent intervals for bacteriological analysis and results have been satisfactory. Chlorination of the water is being carried out. The plan to pipe the water to a larger part of the village and to renew the existing system has now been completed with the exception of the new pumping house.

Wigmore

The new supply to this village has been installed and is working satisfactorily.

Extension of main supplies to other parishes

The under-mentioned parishes are now on main water supplies.

Adforton.	Aymestrey and Yatton.
Brampton Bryan.	Eyton.
Lingen.	Luston.
Richards Castle.	Shobdon.

WATER SAMPLING

All mains water in the district is sampled at frequent intervals. Results have been satisfactory.

Bacteriological Sampling

Samples of water for bacteriological analysis from mains, wells and springs taken during the year and sent to the laboratory at Hereford numbered 202. These samples yielded the following results:

Satisfactory	146
Unsatisfactory	56

Chemical Sampling

One sample of water for chemical analysis was taken during the year and submitted to the laboratory at Birmingham. The result was satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage Disposal Works on housing sites have been inspected weekly. The plants are working satisfactorily. The contents are removed at regular intervals from the settling tanks, thus ensuring efficient working.

Sewage disposal in the district is mainly by private septic tanks and filter beds and by the conservancy system.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A satisfactory house-to-house refuse collection service is in operation and is working well. Collections are made twice monthly in the larger parishes and once a month in the smaller ones.

Tips are situated at Shobdon, Fidler's Elbow, Leintwardine, Bodenham and Brimfield.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The sole instance of pollution of any river or stream occured at Brimfield. It arose from the Wyson Housing Estate.

DISINFECTION on account of INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Inspections and re-inspections made in connection with infectious disease numbered 27; disinfection was carried out in 9 houses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Ninety inspections have been made at the various factories with and without mechanical power in the district. The factories without mechanical power are small generally, employing only two or three persons. Five informal notices have been served for minor defects. Four of these were for want of cleanliness and one for insufficient sanitary conveniences. On the whole the regulations are carried out satisfactorily.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	43	36	5	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	5	11	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	33	43	-	-
TOTAL	81	90	5	-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

List of inspections made under various Acts and Orders and under enactments governing Meat and Food.

Inspections, etc. under	Number	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices complied with
Housing & Public Health Acts	350	117	-	95
Factories Acts	90	5	-	5
Milk Regulations, 1949 ..	74	-	-	-
Bakehouses	32	-	-	-
Food Premises	450	6	-	6
Schools	19	-	-	-
Water Supplies	203	52	-	50
Infectious Disease	27	-	-	-
Knackers Yard	52	2	-	2
Hop-Pickers Quarters	12	3	-	3

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Survey of all premises is being carried out under the above Act. Private dwelling houses have been treated free of charge. Treatment is available, when required, for business and industrial properties.

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural.
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All Other (includg. Business Premises)	Total	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	6	2485	189	2680	566
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	-	14	-	14	-
(b) Survey under the Act	6	485	64	555	191
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	-	104	21	125	85
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats Major	1	12	-	13	6
Minor	5	134	-	139	62
(b) Mice Major	-	23	2	25	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
V. Number of infested properties (in Sect. 1V) treated by the Local Authority	6	169	-	175	-
Vl. Total treatments carried out - including re-treatments	23	169	-	192	-
Vll. Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act (Treatment and Structural Work)	-	-	-	-	-
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	-	5	-	5	-

HOUSING

Number of Council houses built by the Authority in 1955:-

Permanent Brick ... 18

Number of houses built by Private Persons:-

Permanent Brick ... 16

INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts 201

   (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 350

2. Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 117

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR

Proceedings under Public Health Acts ... Nil

Notices Issued

Informal 117
Statutory ... ... Nil

DEFECTS REMEDIED

The following list relates only to major defects which were remedied and to repairs which were carried out

Spouting repaired	36	Pumps repaired	12
Roofs	48	Defective floors	48
Drains	60	Windows repaired	43
Septic Tanks	45	Doors repaired	35
Dampness	9	Chimneys repaired	36
W.Cs. Provided	47	Plaster repaired	35
New sinks fitted	39	Defective cooking stoves etc	39
Baths fitted	37	Stairs repaired	2
W.Cs. Repaired	2	Pantries provided	3
Earth Closets	1	Washing facilities provided	37
Defective Wells	21	Other Nuisances	4
New Wells	5		

HOUSING ACT, 1949 (Improvement Grants)

Thirteen grants were made during the year for improvements to private dwelling houses.

VAN DWELLINGS

There are several van dwellings in the district. Most of the permanent type are situated in Abbey Lane, Leintwardine, and have their own water supply and drainage. In general, they obtain their water from the nearest dwelling and use chemical closets.

CAMPING SITES

When camping does occur in the district it is only for short periods.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Inspections were made at various foodshops in the district and numbered 450. Six Notices were served and these were carried out. The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Tinned Fruit	19 lbs.	Tinned Soup	11 lbs.
" Vegetables	44 lbs.	" Fish	12 lbs.
" Milk	6 lbs.	Bacon	9 lbs.
" Meat	26 lbs.	Meat	648 lbs.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Two licences were renewed during the year for private Slaughter Houses in the district.

NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES

	Type of Premises	No. of Premises
(a)	GROCERS (including sale of fruit, fish, vegetables, game and pre-packed ice-cream) ..	18
(b)	SWEETS AND SUGAR CONFECTIONERY (including sale of pre-packed ice-cream)	Included in (a)
(c)	RESTAURANTS & CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS (including fish and chip fryers and sale of pre-packed ice-cream) ..	8
(d)	LICENSED PREMISES (hotels, inns and clubs)	24
(e)	BAKERS AND CONFECTIONERS	7
(f)	BUTCHERS	5
(g)	CENTRAL KITCHEN for SCHOOL MEALS ..	1
(h)	CORN STORES AND SHOPS	5
	Total ..	68

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES, by TYPE, REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 14 of the FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

(i) SALE OF PRE-PACKED ICE-CREAM

Grocers	11
Restaurants & Catering Establishments	3
Confectioners	1
Butchers	1
Total ..	16

(j) PREPARATION OR MANUFACTURE OF SAUSAGES, OR POTTED, PRESSED, PICKLED or PRESERVED FOOD.

Butchers	1

Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 (excluding farm dairies) .. 4

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD:-

Meat - to the Knackers Yard.

Other Foods - by burial.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Unknown	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	3	2	1	-	-	6
Whooping Cough	3	2	7	11	1	-	-	-	24
Measles	3	19	37	96	25	1	3	1	185
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
(Other Forms)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1955 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of fifty-two males and thirty-three females who normally reside within the district.

During the year five new cases were notified, four on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one Non-Pulmonary. One case moved into the district.

During the same period, three persons recovered, one died and one left the district.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26
Vaccination and Immunisation

Number of children in the district who were treated during the year:

Purpose of Injection	Age at date of immunisation or vaccination								Reinforcing Injections
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	Total	
Immunisation against Diphtheria	39	40	10	4	3	45	1	142	118
Immunisation against Whooping Cough	-25	25	5	-	3	-	-	58	-
Vaccination against Smallpox	71	2	1	-	-	-	-	74	11

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility and the figures given above have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	6	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	4	11	15
Coronary disease, angina	8	5	13
Other heart disease	12	20	32
Other circulatory disease	3	3	6
Pneumonia	1	5	6
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ,..	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Congenital malformations	2	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3	5
All accidents	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war ...	1	-	1
Suicide	1	-	1
All causes ...	49	61	110